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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

March 1, 2016

Sen. Timothy Larson, Co-Chairman
Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection supports the following bills before you today and thanks you for raising these important agency proposals.

SB 122-An Act Concerning Security at Institutions of Higher Education.

A number of private universities has a security department or a Department of Public Safety, or contracts with a security company, whose security personnel are armed, either carrying firearms on a personal permit or under the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act for retired police personnel. Given recent events on college campuses, it is essential that all armed security guards at private institutions of higher education have the proper training and certifications.

This proposal would require all armed school security officers at *private* institutions of higher education to be POST certified. Currently, under C.G.S. 10a-156c, armed security guards at *public* institutions of higher education must be POST certified.

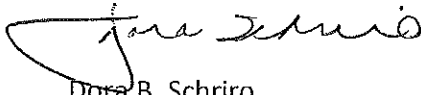
The bill would also require security audits every 5 years at all public and private higher education institutions.

Currently, PA 13-3, section 96, requires DESPP to conduct, or requires the school to conduct, a one-time safety and security audit of every campus of every public university in the state. With new threats arising and best practices evolving on a continuous basis, both public and private schools should be required to conduct a safety and security audit of their campus every five years so as to continuously strive towards achieving optimal safety and security on campus.

HB 5281-An Act Concerning Notification to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council.

Public Act No. 15-4 Sec. 6 (a),(b), (c) and (d) deals with police officers dismissed for malfeasance or other serious misconduct or police officers who resigned or retired while under investigation for such malfeasance or other serious misconduct. These sections require any law enforcement unit from which such person is separated, if they become aware that the person has applied to another law enforcement agency, to inform that agency of such dismissal, resignation or retirement. Although POST is usually notified of an officer's separation, POST is not usually notified if the above circumstances apply. Since the conduct resulting in separation from the original agency may require de-certification, both the POST Council and DESPP believe that POST should be notified. This would also provide another valuable source of information for prospective hiring departments to consider when conducting the background investigation of any candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dora Schriro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Dora B. Schriro
Commissioner